



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD  
**Investigative Hearing**

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Metrorail train 302 that encountered heavy smoke in the tunnel between the L'Enfant Plaza Station and the Potomac River Bridge on January 12, 2015

GROUP	A
EXHIBIT	
18	

Agency / Organization

Amalgamated Transit Union Local 689

Title

Biography of James Madaras

## Biography

James Madaras

### Local 689/WMATA

James Madaras began working for WMATA in 1984, as a Communications Maintenance Technician in the office of Systems Maintenance, maintaining a vast array of specialized electronic equipment which included: Fire and Intrusion equipment, Closed Circuit Television equipment, Public Address systems, Communication Multiplexing systems, and the roadway Emergency Trip Station phone system.

In 1987, Mr. Madaras was promoted to a “AA” Communications Technician and continued to work in that capacity until being transferred to an Integrated Technician position in 2007. From 2007 to 2012, he installed and maintained equipment associated with the Metronet Integrated Network.

Mr. Madaras was elected as Local 689 Executive Board member for Systems Maintenance in 2005. He is currently serving his fourth consecutive term.

In 2013, Mr. Madaras was appointed full-time Local 689 /Assistant Business Agent for Maintenance and Construction where he currently represents more than four thousand Local 689 members.

Also, in 2013, Mr. Madaras was appointed as the Chief Safety Officer for Local 689. His thirty-one year tenure and extensive knowledge and experience throughout the Metro bus and rail systems have helped Local 689 address significant numbers of safety concerns throughout WMATA.

He represents Local 689 on the WMATA Executive Safety Committee.

Mr. Madaras is a current member of the Confidential Close Call Transit Safety Reporting Committee which affords Metro employees an opportunity to report Confidential Close Calls to the Bureau of Transportation Statistics that Metro and Local 689 would otherwise not know about.